

# STATE OF COLORADO

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

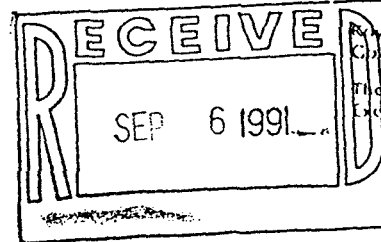
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September 3, 1991

David P. Simonson  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Office  
P.O. Box 928  
Golden, CO 80402-0928



Ray Romer  
Governor  
Thomas M. Vennon, M.D.  
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Simonson:

The Colorado Department of Health, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, "The Division" has reviewed your letter of August 27, 1991 (WMED:JW:6646) which requests a change in the approach to drying out the Solar Ponds.

On August 20, 1991 the Proposed Final Decision Document for Solar Ponds IM/IRA was received by the Division and EPA at a meeting, and on August 23, 1991 the Division faxed a letter to the Department of Energy, (DOE) approving the release of the Decision Document for public comment with the inclusion of three items. The most significant of these items was the addition of structural support made of non-earthen materials for the bottom of the surge tanks and an automatic feed cut-off and high level alarm system which will automatically start pumping water out of the tanks.

All of the requested changes are required for regulatory approval of the surge tank design in order to meet the requirements for hazardous waste management tanks and would also be required for a change to interim status. Historically at Rocky Flats engineering design modifications, procurement and subcontracting requires a considerable amount of time. It is difficult for the Division to believe that all of the above activities will be completed within the sixty day public comment period. It is unlikely that a change to interim status or approval of tank installation activities before the end of the public comment period would substantially impact the schedules in a positive manner. We maintain that the proposed activity is most appropriately addressed through an IM/IRA.


The Division encourages DOE to release the Solar Ponds IM/IRA Decision Document, as approved on August 23, 1991, for public comment as soon as possible.

ADAM RECORD

A-GU04-000174

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact Noreen Matsuura of my staff at (303) 331-4920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gary W. Baughman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gary W. Baughman, Unit Leader  
Hazardous Waste Facilities  
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

cc. Tom Lukow, DOE  
Joe Wienand, DOE  
Martin Hestmark, EPA  
Arturo Duran, EPA  
Dan Miller, AGO  
Barbara Barry, RFP  
J.M. Kersh, EG&G  
Don Ferrier, EG&G